

YOUNG LUNGS AT PLAY!

TOBACCO-FREE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS...

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

Smoking where children play is sending the wrong message to our children. Send the right message. Smoking is not acceptable around children.

PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Cigarette butts make parks and playgrounds look dirty and cause lasting damage. Send the right message. Smoking is not acceptable where children play.

PROTECT OUR HEALTH

Exposure to secondhand smoke can cause cancer, asthma, and other health problems. Send the right message. Smoking is not acceptable.

Young Lungs at Play!:

An initiative of the County of Rockland to prevent children's exposure to secondhand smoke in public parks and playgrounds in partnership with: The Rockland County Office of the County Executive; Rockland County Department of Health; Steps to a HealthierNY; Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources; Reality Check; POW'R Against Tobacco Coalition; and Put It Out Rockland.

For more information: 845-364-2633 or www.co.rockland.ny.us



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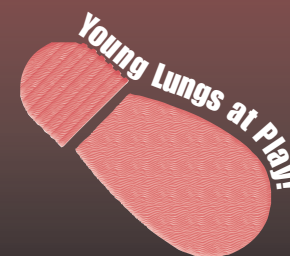


Steps ...

YOUNG LUNGS AT PLAY!



Tobacco-Free Parks And Playgrounds



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Rockland County Department of Health • Joan H. Facelle, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health • C. Scott Vanderhoef, County Executive

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WHY SHOULD PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS BE TOBACCO-FREE?

SECONDHAND SMOKE IS HARMFUL

- Secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 chemicals; 2,000 are poisons and 69 cause cancer.
- Children exposed to secondhand smoke are more likely to suffer from upper respiratory and ear infections.
- Secondhand smoke is especially harmful for children and adults with asthma and other chronic conditions.

CHILDREN MODEL ADULT BEHAVIORS

- When children see adults smoking in family-friendly places such as parks and playgrounds, they see smoking as acceptable.

CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE HAZARDOUS

- Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world.
- Small children can pick up littered cigarette butts and put them in their mouths, which can cause choking, burns, or nicotine poisoning.
- Cigarette butt cleanup is costly to taxpayers.

ROCKLAND RESIDENTS SUPPORT TOBACCO-FREE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

- From March 2005 to May 2005, 1,000 Rockland residents signed a **Smoke-Free Home and Car Pledge** (Source: 2005 NACO Smoke Free County Challenge)
- 73% of Rockland residents agree smoking is one of the most important health problems.
- 65% of Rockland residents believe secondhand smoke exposure is "very harmful."
- 70% of Rockland residents believe secondhand smoke causes diseases in children.
- 86.6% of adults in Rockland County do not smoke.
- 83% of Rockland residents do not allow smoking in their home.
- 79% of Rockland residents do not allow smoking in their car.

(Source: May 2005 Community Survey Data)

SUPPORT TOBACCO-FREE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS

- Contact your local government representative through a letter, email, or phone call to express your support of tobacco-free parks and playgrounds.
- Join or start a local advocacy group in support of tobacco-free parks and playgrounds.



- There is no law that guarantees a person's "right" to smoke in parks and playgrounds.
- Rockland residents have a right to protect our children, our community, our environment, and our health.

Steps to a **Healthier** New York, Starts with a **Healthier** New You!

